

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
FINANCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

January 11, 2024

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Mr. John Stankey
Chief Executive Officer
AT&T, Inc.
208 S. Akard St.
Suite 110
Dallas, TX 75202

Mr. Dave Lougee
President and Chief Executive Officer
Tegna, Inc.
8350 Broad Street
Suite 2000
Tysons, VA 22102

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel, Mr. Stankey, and Mr. Lougee:

I write to express concern regarding the ongoing carriage dispute between DirecTV/AT&T U-Verse and Tegna. On November 30, 2023, Ohioans across the state began experiencing local television station blackouts and are currently without access to WKYC, WBNS, and WTOL.

For weeks, too many Ohioans have been unable to access local news, sports, entertainment, weather updates, traffic patterns, and other essential information throughout the busy holiday travel. On top of that, the NFL playoffs are starting. This year's Browns team has embodied the spirit of Cleveland. They faced adversity, played games without many of their top players due to injuries, and kept on winning anyway. When everyone counts them out, that's when Clevelanders are at their best. During this season and at this time, it is unacceptable that Browns fans would be unable to watch their team play in the playoffs – their first playoff game in three years – due to a business dispute.

The parties must engage in good-faith negotiations and prioritize protecting Ohioans from continued blackouts – especially with the Browns in the playoffs. I also request that the Commission continue to monitor this situation closely and facilitate the resolution of the ongoing dispute promptly and impartially. We must ensure accountability for any practices that disadvantage consumers. Thank you for your consideration, and please keep my office informed of any further action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator